

**RESOLUTION NO. 12 - 523**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Rachel Williams-Smith, Ph.D., has successfully directed Oakwood University's Leadership Education for the Adult Professional (LEAP) program from 2008 - 2012; and,

**WHEREAS**, the LEAP program has increased in enrollment by 4,125% since her advancement to the full-time position as Director in 2009, serving mostly residents of Huntsville/Madison County, as well as adults in surrounding cities and the entire state of Alabama. The direction taken and level of excellence reached by Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith as Director of the LEAP program has and continues to impact the City of Huntsville by improving education and college degree rates among adults 25 years and older. This program creates opportunities for advancement of an individual in his career, assists economic improvement, and helps make citizens of Huntsville more competitive in business and education; and,

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure through the LEAP program, Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith has made it possible for over 100 American adults to graduate with degrees in Church Leadership, General Psychology, General Studies, Information Technology, and Organizational Management; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith reached several academic milestones before accepting the position as Director of LEAP, accumulating a Bachelor of Science degree in Language Arts Education from Oakwood University here in the City of Huntsville, a Master's degree in English/Professional Writing from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, and a Doctoral Degree in Communication from Regent University. She is currently enrolled at Cappella University and will study there until completion of a Doctoral Degree in Adult Education. She will return this fall as a full-time professor in Oakwood University's Communication Department. She is a member of the Oakwood Adventist Academy Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, Rachel Williams-Smith is the mother of two wonderful college students, Sharon Dublin, an aspiring elementary educator, and Sheryl Dublin, an aspiring community organizer and local politician, whom she raised as a single parent for almost two decades until meeting her husband. She is married to Carl Smith, a professional tailor and part-time teacher. Rachel has overcome many challenges and has always remained an inspiration and motivator to others who have faced and are facing difficulty in a non-traditional environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, for a plethora of notable reasons, Rachel Williams-Smith has become a prominent woman in the City of Huntsville. She has appeared on local television advertising the LEAP program; graduated from Huntsville/Madison County Leadership Class 23; gained a reputation of excellence, professionalism, and strong leadership throughout the community; a member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce; a driving force behind the increase voter registration rates in 2008 for

**RESOLUTION 12-523**

June 28, 2012

Page 2

Huntsville's District 5; served on countless committees; and is a successful educator at Oakwood University.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby congratulate and express appreciation to Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith for her dedication to the LEAP program that continues to impact the City of Huntsville. She has helped enhance the lives of adult professionals by instilling hope in the hearts of many who felt hopeless. We thank her for positively and effectively representing the City of Huntsville and wish her continued success in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

---

President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

---

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama